

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI TARGETS CALIFORNIA'S SHORTAGE OF HIGH SKILLED WORKERS

Event at Cal State Los Angeles addressed the impact of higher education institutions on the region and state's ability to meet future needs for healthcare and high skilled workers.

LOS ANGELES - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi gathered with educational and community leaders on Thursday to discuss solutions to California's short and long-term workforce needs. At the "Listening Tour" forum at California State University, Los Angeles, the Lt. Governor addressed the increasing demand for more nurses and other healthcare professionals, as well as the recent report by the Public Policy Institute of California that suggests that the state will soon face a serious shortage of college educated and other high skilled workers.

Dr. Diana Bontá, Vice President of Public Affairs for Kaiser Permanente Southern California Region, and Dr. Roland "Chip" Chapdelaine, President of Los Angeles Trade Tech College, were among those who made presentations.

"It is vital that California find innovative answers to meet worker shortages in critical fields such as healthcare," said the Lt. Governor. "I believe that with a renewed commitment and strategic planning, our world-class higher education institutions will be able to better prepare our students for future careers and help our state maintain its leadership in the global economy."

Lt. Governor Garamendi will use information from the discussion to develop education initiatives help California's universities reach their full potential as a community partner and more effectively meet regional and state workforce needs. Thursday's event was the fifth "Listening Tour" forum held since Lt. Governor Garamendi took office in January. Similar forums took place earlier in the year at the CSU Fresno, Bakersfield, San Bernardino and East Bay campuses.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2007

Contact: Norman D. Williams

916-445-8994